THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1773. THE NUMBER 377.

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

Open to ALL PARTIES, but influenced by NONE.

To Mr. RIND.

TREASURY OFFICE July 20th 1773.

SIR,

IT was with equal Concern and Aſtoniſhment that I read in your Gazette of the 15th Inſtant, under the London Head, the following Paragraphs.

"Extract of a Letter from a Member of the Virginia "Aſſembly dated March the 14th, 1773, to his Corre- "ſpondent in London, *ſubmitted to the ſerious Conſideration "of the Britiſh Merchants trading to that Colony.*"

"Our Aſſembly is now ſitting. Almoſt £. 37,000 new "Paper Notes of Credit are to be emitted to *redeem* thoſe "now in Circulation, *notwithſtanding the Redemption of "£. 8000 of them ſhould have taken Place in* 1770, *and "the Taxes have been actually received for that Purpoſe: "Would it not be wiſe in the Merchants in Britain to en- "deavour at obtaining Inſtructions from the King to our "Governor not to aſſent to any of our Acts for emitting Pa- "per Money?*"

I am perſuaded that no Member of the Aſſembly could have been the Author of a Letter ſo big with the moſt injurious Reflections upon our Legiſlature; it muſt have been the Offspring of ſome other deſigning, inſidious Perſon, who, to give Poignancy to his Malice, hath aſſumed that Character. Had this Letter been confined to the Engliſh Papers, it might ſuffice to give a proper Anſwer to it thro' the ſame Channels; but, ſince it has been republiſhed here, to prevent any bad Influence it may have in this and the other Colonies on the Continent, I beg the Favour of you to publiſh, in your next Paper, the following Letter, which I have wrote to my correſpondent in London. I am, Sir, your moſt obedient Servant,

RO. C. NICHOLAS.

VIRGINIA 16th July 1773.

SIR,

HAVING already, by different Opportunities, wrote to you upon private and ordinary Affairs, my Attention is now reluctantly, tho' neceſſarily drawn to a Subject of a public and more ſerious Nature, in which, I conſider not only my own Credit, but the Honor and Integrity of our General Aſſembly as eſſentially involved. I cannot ſufficiently expreſs my Surprize at reading, in both our late Gazettes, two Paragraphs, of which the incloſed is a literal Copy. The Liverpoole Printer, I preſume, took them from ſome London Paper, and, before this Time, they have probably circulated throughout Great Britain. Who was the Author of this extraordinary Letter, I will not venture to gueſs, leſt I ſhou'd do Injuſtice to any one; but I cannot believe it could have been written by a "Member of the Virginia Aſſembly," as is ſuggeſted, becauſe every Member of that Body muſt have been better acquainted with their Views and Proceedings, and, I hope, is actuated by ſtricter Principles of Honour, than to have given ſo *partial* and *unjuſt* a Repreſentation. The Author's evident Deſign was to inſinuate that our late Emiſſion of Treaſury Notes was *wantonly* and *unjuſtly* voted by the Aſſembly; that there had been a Miſapplication made of the £. 8000, he ſpeaks of, by the Treaſurer, either of his own Accord, or by Direction of the Aſſembly, or, at leaſt, with their Connivance; and what is worſe, if poſſible, his Letter has a direct Tendency to ſubject the Conduct of our Legiſlature, to the Cenſure of our moſt gracious Sovereign. Whether the Merchants of Britain have purſued the *wiſe* Advice of the Author and endeavoured to obtain his Majeſty's Inſtructions to our Governor "not to aſſent to any of our Acts of Aſſembly for emitting Paper Money" would to me be a Matter of great Indifference, unleſs it were done upon ſuch groundleſs Aſſertions; tho' I would fain hope, that Gentlemen of their Diſcernment, who are ſo materially connected with this Colony, have not ſuffer'd themſelves to be ſo eaſily deluded, and that they muſt conſider our Legiſlature as reſpectable enough to be entitled to a candid Hearing, on this and all other intereſting Occaſions, before their Conduct is condemned. One, and this no inconſiderable Misfortune attending our diſtant Separation from our parent Country, is, that we are too often expoſed to Miſrepreſentations; various Inſtances of this Sort might be produced. If any Inſtructions ſhould be obtained, I am perſuaded they can only look forward, and will not interfere with the Laws now in Force, under the Authority of which our Paper Money has been iſſued and is now actually in Circulation. A Moment's Reflection muſt ſuggeſt to you and every Man of Senſe, that a Meaſure of this Sort would introduce the greateſt Confuſion into the Country and involve many Individuals in the utmoſt Diſtreſs. For my own Part I never was an Advocate for Paper Money; I believe a great Majority of our Aſſembly have an Averſion to it and never would have conſented to introduce ſuch a Currency amongſt us, but from the moſt preſſing Neceſſity; tho' it is the Opinion of many judicious Perſons that a *moderate* Quantity of Paper, eſtabliſh'd upon competent Funds, if it could be effectually guarded againſt Forgeries, wou'd be of great Utility to this Country. From an earneſt Deſire that the Conduct of our Aſſembly, in theſe Money Matters eſpecially, ſhould be placed in a proper and juſt Point of View, I muſt beg your Attention to it from firſt to laſt. Paper Currencies, I believe, had obtain'd in ſeveral other Colonies, on this Continent, long before an Introduction of ſuch a Species of Money amongſt us was thought of here. Our Aſſembly had ſo little Inclination to it, that, at the firſt Commencement of thoſe Hoſtilities, which were introductory to the late War, when they were called upon for Aids, they preferr'd borrowing the Sum deſired, even at an advanced Intereſt. In the Progreſs of the War, many and earneſt Requiſitions from the Crown were made of our Aſſembly; the Sums required, from Time to Time, were ſo very conſiderable, that there was no Proſpect of borrowing them; could they have been had, the Intereſt would have proved ſo enormous a Burthen, that the Country could not have borne it, without diſtreſſing the People amazingly. Hence aroſe an abſolute Neceſſity of having Recourſe to a Paper Currency. The Sums voted at different Times were upon proper Eſtimates, and Funds, the moſt ample and unexceptionable, were eſtabliſhed for the Redemption of the Treaſury Notes; indeed I can ſay with great Truth, that the Aſſembly was ſo ſcrupulous in this Matter, that, rather than there ſhould be the ſmalleſt Doubt of their Sufficiency, they valued the Funds at much leſs, than thoſe, who were beſt acquainted with them, were perſuaded they would yield. The Demand of large Sums was almoſt annual for ſeveral ſucceſſive Years; the Periods of Redemption of the different Emiſſions were various, and it wou'd have been too burthenſome to the People to have been obliged to ſink an entire Emiſſion by Taxes to be collected within the Year. The Conſequence of this was, that there became ſo great a Variety of Paper Money in Circulation, that it was morally impoſſible to wind up any one Emiſſion at the Period of it's Redemption. The Taxes were paid in ſuch Money, as People happened to be poſſeſſed of; and you will readily ſee that the Treaſurer was obliged to receive ſuch Treaſury Notes, as the Collectors offered in Payment, otherwiſe the Credit of the whole Money would have ſunk at once. It cannot be denied, for I mean to tell you the whole Truth, that the Affairs of our Treaſury, after many Years, fell into Confuſion. An unhappy Incident, I muſt ſay, not entirely peculiar to this Country, tho' it gives me Pain to recollect the Misfortunes of others. I would here gladly draw a Veil over the Infirmities of my Predeceſſor in Office; but it is neceſſary, for your better underſtanding ſome of my ſubſequent Obſervations, that I ſhould recal to your Remembrance, for the Thing was made very public ſeveral Years ago, the Miſmanagement of our Finances, as well, in not calling the Collectors to a ſtricter Account, as, in lending out the public Money. Both theſe Things I have had abundant Reaſons to believe, in Reſpect to the Treaſurer himſelf, were more owing to a miſtaken Kind of Humanity and Compaſſion for Perſons in Diſtreſs, than any View to his own private Emolument; and, in Regard to the Aſſembly, they were deceived by placing too large a Share of Confidence in their Treaſurer; he was grown old in this and another important Office, both of which he had filled, for a great Number of Years, with much Reputation. Upon his Death, and not till then, his Miſmanagement was diſcovered. The Aſſembly immediately put this Buſineſs into a different Channel; guarded it with ſuch Precautions and Reſtrictions, as their Experience had taught, and hoped that the World would look forward and be convinced that little Danger of the like Inconveniencies was to be apprehended. After this Diſcovery, a thorough Scrutiny was made into the Affairs of the Treaſury; and, in the Year 1767, a Committee being appointed to examine the Accounts of the different Emiſſions and the State of the ſeveral Funds, reported "that the Sum of "£. 539,962 10 had been iſſued in Treaſury Notes for pub- "lic Services. That, after deducting the Notes burnt by "the ſtanding Committee, appointed by Law for that "Purpoſe, and what were then in the Treaſurer's Hands, "there remain'd in Circulation the Sum of £. 206,727 2 2." The Number of Notes burnt by the ſaid Committee, ſince the above Report, reduces the Balance, at this Time outſtanding, as appears, from the Treaſury Books, to £. 54,391 5. The Balance due to theſe Funds from the Eſtate of the late Treaſurer; from the Arrears of Taxes in the Hands of the Collectors (I mean ſuch as are believed to be good) have, upon ſeveral and late Examinations of our Houſe of Burgeſſes, been judged an ample Security for the Redemption of ſuch of theſe Notes, as remain in Circulation, and moreover to diſcharge the Balance, which, from ſome ſubſequent Obſervations, will appear to be due from the old Notes to the Funds of later Emiſſions. The whole viſible Eſtate of the late Treaſurer has been ſold to anſwer the Demands of the Public; an Intereſt of five per Cent. is annually accounted for upon his Balance, every legal Method is purſued to get the Money out of the Hands of the Collectors; and, leſt any Deficiency ſhould happen, the Houſe of Burgeſſes have bound themſelves by repeated Reſolves to make it good. That this Balance and theſe Arrears have not been paid before this Time, I believe, has been chiefly owing to the Scarcity of Money and the great Difficulties attending the Collection of it; but both of them have been and probably will be leſſened every Year. Moſt of the Merchants, as well as others, ſenſible of the Goodneſs of the Foundation, on which the Security of theſe Notes is eſtabliſhed, have generally (till within theſe twelve Months, when our Exchange took a ſudden and unexpected Start, owing to the peculiar Complexion of the Times) preferr'd them either to Gold or Silver, as being more convenient for tranſacting the internal Buſineſs of the Country. Under theſe Circumſtances, the Aſſembly thought it unreaſonable and unjuſt to impoſe new Taxes on the People for the Redemption of theſe Notes, as they had already paid more than was ſufficient for that Purpoſe. As Things had unluckily fallen into Confuſion, it was judged moſt prudent to endeavour at reducing them to Order by Degrees, having a proper Regard to the ultimate Security of the Public and every Individual connected with it; indeed, it was apprehended, that over rigorous Meaſures might be productive of ſome conſiderable Loſſes. The Riſe of Exchange, which I have acknowledged did occaſion an Alteration in the Preference formerly given to our Treaſury Notes, appears to have been chiefly owing to the Misfortunes in Great Britain, and by no Means to a Redundancy either of Specie or Paper Money. Every one, attentive to the Nature of Exchange, I think, muſt allow that it is regulated *principally* by the Quantity of Money and the Number of Bills brought to Market; if we ſuppoſe the Quantity of Money, to be laid out in Bills, at different Times, nearly equal, and the Number of Bills greatly leſſened, this will, of Courſe, raiſe the Exchange. It is notorious that a large Proportion, if not much the greateſt Number of Bills had been, for ſeveral Years paſt, drawn by the Scotch Factors; theſe Gentlemen's Draughts have, of late, been reſtrained to narrow Limits, and, I believe, very few of thoſe, who uſed to deal moſt conſiderably in Exchange, now draw any Bills at all. Our Exchange has fluctuated, for a conſiderable Time, and generally been under Par: Sometimes it was at 15, 17½, 20, 22½ per Cent. and, I think, laſt July, when the Misfortunes, that had happened in Great Britain, began firſt to be felt here, it roſe to 25, afterwards to 27½, and, at the laſt Meeting of the Merchants, to 30 per Cent. This Riſe put the Remitters upon collecting all the Specie they could, and hence aroſe a Diſlike in *ſome* to Paper Money; but you muſt think it reſolvable into an Incident, which the wiſeſt of Men could not have foreſeen nor prevented.

We continued ſeveral Years without any Expectation, that we ſhould be under a Neceſſity of iſſuing more Paper Money; but, in the Year 1769, a Requiſition from the Crown was laid before the Aſſembly by our late worthy Governor, Lord Botetourt, to defray the Expences of running a Line between this Colony and the Cherokee Country; the Sum deſired, according to an Eſtimate laid before us, was £. 2500 Sterling: The Expences of the Country, for condemned Slaves, Tobacco loſt in ſeveral public Warehouſes and other Contingencies, ran pretty high; and, at the ſame Time, the Aſſembly was deſirous to make Trial of a moderate Sum of Copper Money, which had been found extremely uſeful in ſome of the neighbouring Colonies; theſe ſeveral Articles would have called for about £. 15,000; but the public Fund of our Treaſury, as it is called to diſtinguiſh it from other *particular appropriated* Funds, was very low. After conſidering ſeveral Expedients, it was judged moſt eligible to iſſue a moderate Sum in Treaſury Notes; and, that it might be reduced to the narroweſt Compaſs, we anticipated about £. 5000, which the ordinary, ſtanding Duties, would probably bring in the enſuing Spring, and only voted £. 10,000 to be iſſued in Paper Money *to paſs in Payment to ſuch Perſons as were willing to receive it.* Theſe Notes were made redeemable the 20th of November, 1771, and the moſt ample Funds eſtabliſh'd to ſecure ſuch Redemption. Accordingly £. 10,000 were emitted in the Paper, of which I formerly ſent you a Sample, and which, from its peculiar Texture and the various Checks and Devices, with which it was guarded, every one hoped wou'd have effectually ſecured the Money againſt Counterfeits and Forgeries. In the Year 1771 there happened the moſt extraordinary Overflowings of our different Rivers, that had been known in the Memory of Man; vaſt Quantities of Tobacco were deſtroyed in many of the public Warehouſes; the Merchants and other Sufferers, in a Body, joined in a Memorial to the Preſident and Council praying Relief; the Aſſembly was called, and the diſtreſſed Situation of the unfortunate Sufferers recommended to their immediate and moſt ſerious Attention. You muſt know, Sir, that, by our Inſpection Law, under the Authority of which the public Warehouſes are eſtabliſhed, the Country is obliged to make good every Loſs of this Kind. The Aſſembly met in the Month of July, and, after conſidering maturely every Propoſal, that was offered, they found that nothing could enable them, except a farther Emiſſion of Paper Money, to do the Sufferers that ſpeedy Juſtice, they had a Right to expect. They therefore voted £. 30,000, the ſmalleſt Sum that could anſwer the Purpoſe, valuing themſelves, in Aid of this, upon what might be ſaved by picking ſuch Hogſheads of the Tobacco, as had been but partially damaged. The Notes to be emitted were made redeemable the 10th of December, 1775, and ſuch Funds were eſtabliſhed for their Redemption, as every one, acquainted with them, muſt be convinced will yield conſiderably more than the Sum emitted. Both theſe laſt Emiſſions were in ſuch Eſtimation, that they were generally preferred to any other Money in the Colony; many Merchants, as well as others, brought conſiderable Sums both of Gold and Silver to the public Treaſury to be exchanged for theſe Notes. Thus

[illegible] fixed all our Exchanges [illegible] and then, tho' a Preference was given to Specie by such, as had Occasion to make Remittances, the Treasury Notes maintained their Credit.

In the Month of January last it was, after much Difficulty, discovered that both these Emissions had been counterfeited. The Forgeries were executed in so very ingenious and masterly a Manner, that those, who might be supposed best acquainted with the Money, were deceived. The Signers, the Engraver the Printer and the Numberers of the Notes could not, for some Time, be convinced of the Counterfeits. The Discovery happened to be made when there was a general Meeting of the Merchants in this City; this occasion'd a great Interruption in almost every Kind of Business. The united Voice of the whole Trade seem'd to be, that all the Notes of both Emissions ought immediately to be called in. A Memorial from the Treasury was presented to his Excellency the Governor, who immediately summoned his Council, and, by their Advice, the Assembly was called. The Subject underwent the maturest Deliberation; many Expedients were proposed and duly weighed. Could the Money have been borrowed with Certainty and in Time at a *reasonable Interest*, this would have been thought the most eligible Measure; and, I am persuaded, would have been adopted, without searching for any other; but there was no Prospect of it; the Representatives of the People collected from all Parts of the Country could not say with *Certainty* where so much as £.1000 were to be had. In such a Situation what could have been done? Something every one saw was necessary; the Circulation of the Money, in most Parts, was stopt, tho' every Method had been used to make the Public acquainted with such Marks, as distinguished the good from the forged Bills, so soon as the Counterfeits were detected. Unwilling as the Assembly really was to issue more Paper Money, it was found, at last, that no other Method could be safely relied on. There happened to be in the Country a Quantity of Paper imported some Years ago by one of our most considerable Merchants, who with several others had a Design of establishing a private Bank. This Paper was fabricated in London by a very eminent Hand, as you may see by the Sample inclosed. The Assembly was of Opinion that it would afford a much better Security against Forgeries, than any we had before made Use of, and therefore resolved to make Trial of it, for a short Time. In Order to determine the Quantity necessary, the State of the several Funds was accurately examined, and there was found to be in Circulation of the two Emissions in 1769 and 1771 the Sum of £.36,834; about £.29,000 of the last added to the former made up this aggregate Sum. Here it will be necessary for me to make a small Digression to explain to you the Cause that so large a Sum of this Money still continued out, and this will farther shew my Reasons for speaking so fully of the Fund of old Notes; which, but for the Circumstances before mentioned, would all have been sunk long ago. You'll be pleased to observe the Variety of Money we must necessarily have had in Circulation; it consisted of old Treasury Notes, those of 1769 and 1771 and what Gold and Silver might happen to be in the Circle. The Taxes to redeem these later Emissions were, as formerly, paid in such Money as the People had, and the Treasurer was obliged to receive such as was offer'd him. The Author of the Extract of the Letter says "that the Redemption of £.8000 ought to have taken Place in 1770, and that the Taxes had actually been received for that Purpose." He must allude to the Notes of 1769, for the others were not issued till the Fall 1771; but, in both these Assertions, he is egregiously mistaken. You'll be pleased to recollect, from what I have said, that, at the Time he mentions, there could have been collected but one Year's Taxes, and these were not then all paid into the Treasury. The Truth is, and this seems to be all that is necessary to be known, that the Taxes, appropriated to the Redemption of these Notes, had yielded and there had been paid into the Treasury, before the last Meeting of the Assembly, considerably more than the £.10,000 emitted; besides which there were some Arrears due to that Fund in the Hands of the Collectors. Of the Taxes, appropriated to the Redemption of the Notes issued in 1771, there had been paid in Part for the first Year's Collection the Sum of £.5947 18 7, besides there were also considerable Arrears due to this Fund, which every Endeavour is used to enforce the speedy Payment of. But it must not be supposed that these Taxes were chiefly paid either in Specie or in the particular Notes of the two last Emissions. The Fact is that they were paid indiscriminately in different Sorts of Money, tho' principally in the old Notes, as the new were less defaced, and most People wished to keep them in Circulation. You must know, Sir, when there were, several Years ago, new Regulations established for the better ordering the Affairs of the Treasury, that a standing Committee was appointed of Gentlemen of unexceptionable Characters, who were to examine the Treasurer's Accounts by their proper Vouchers, and to them the Treasurer is obliged to produce the several Balances in his Hands; of which they give him a Certificate, to be published, for the Satisfaction of the Country, in our Gazette. In December last the Accounts were all strictly examined by this Committee; the Treasurer produced the several Balances due to the different Funds, the Accounts of which are kept entirely distinct: There were then in the Treasury of old Notes £.19,590 19 which the Committee burnt and destroyed together with £.923, all there was of the Emission of 1769. Of the former Sum, £.9536 5 7 properly belonged to the other Funds. There were in the Treasury about £.2000 of the Notes of 1771, great Part of which had been received for Duties appropriated to defray the current Expences of the Country, and which were therefore properly applicable to those Purposes; these together with what Specie and Bills of Exchange of undoubted Credit, which were in Hand, made up the exact Balances due to the Country on each particular Account. The Balance due from the old Fund to the new at this Time, including the Notes lately burnt, appears to be £.13,172 19 2. Before the Forgeries were discovered it was judged most prudent to destroy the old Notes as fast as they came in; this could make no Difference to the Public or any Individual, as the Funds, on the Whole, are, upon such good Grounds, believed to be amply sufficient, and, in Case any Deficiency should happen, the public Faith is plighted to make it good. The Specie, which remained, it was absolutely necessary to reserve in the Treasury to exchange for every Sort of the Paper Money, as it was brought in from Time to Time. In the Course of Payments, it frequently happened that there were received considerable Sums of the new Notes for the Use of the old Fund; which the Treasurer exchanged for old Notes with such Persons, as were willing to receive them. In short, in this complicated Business every Endeavour hath been used to support the Credit of the Treasury and to do the Public, as well as every Individual the utmost Justice. The chief Object has been to gather in the Taxes with all possible Expedition, to take proper Care of the Money, when received, and to apply it so far, as could be done, to the Purposes, for which it was intended. But to return to the Proceedings of the Assembly. These you will be best able to judge of, by having Recourse to the Act herewith sent. The Author of the Extract asserts that "almost £.30,000, new Paper Notes of Credit are to be emitted to redeem those now in Circulation." If he would take the Trouble to read the Act, as he surely ought to have done before he ventured to pass his Censure, he will find his Assertion to be groundless. The Truth is this; it was thought necessary that all the outstanding Notes of both Emissions should be immediately called in. The Time appointed, for the Redemption of those issued in 1769, was elapsed, and therefore they could not properly be redeemed by issuing other Bills of Credit. The Notes of 1771 were not redeemable, 'till the 10th Day of December 1775; there could be no Impropriety in substituting other and better Paper Notes in Lieu of these, redeemable at the same Time. Upon such Principles you'll find the Act was framed. The Treasurer is impowered, *not to issue Treasury Notes to that Amount, as is asserted, but to borrow any Sum not exceeding* £.36,834: The Money, when borrowed, was to be apply'd, *in the first Place, to the Redemption of the Treasury Notes issued in* 1769, and when this was done, then to redeem the Notes of 1771; but, if the Treasurer was not able to borrow the Whole or any Part of the Sum, in one Month, he was then impowered to issue his Notes for any Sum, that might be requisite to make up the Deficiency of such Sums as he could not borrow, to be exchanged for the Notes of 1771. These new Notes were not made a legal Tender, but were to pass to such Persons only, as should be willing to receive them. For the Repayment of such Sums with Interest, as might be borrowed, and, for the Redemption of the new Notes to be issued, you'll find that all the Funds of the other Notes are expressly mortgaged, and, moreover, the Act declares that, if they should prove deficient, "*the same shall be made good by the Public*". You will find that a farther Provision is made, which was thought wou'd be extremely useful and the most probable Means to prevent Forgeries. The Treasurer is directed to redeem these new Notes on the 1st of June 1774 by applying, in the first Place so much Money, as shall then have come to his Hands of the Duties and Taxes; and, if these should not be sufficient, he is impowered to borrow Money; and if he should not be able to do this, he is then directed to issue other Treasury Notes to redeem such of those directed by the Act to be first issued, as may, at that Time, remain in Circulation; these other Notes are to be imprinted upon the most proper Paper, that can be procured from Great Britain, in the mean Time. This Act hath been and will be strictly conformed to. None of the new Notes have issued, except in Exchange for those of 1771, tho' many of the Merchants and others would gladly have taken them for those of 1769 also. The whole Sum that can be issued will not exceed £.29,000, and I am hopeful, I shall be able to do with less. The Shortness of the Time allowed for borrowing, before the Notes were to be issued, I know was objected to by some; but Necessity urged the Assembly to it, and after Experience proved that they judged rightly. At a Meeting of the Merchants in January, it hath been observed that a Stop was put to great Part of their Business in the Money Way. I am persuaded the Case would have been much worse at their next Meeting in April, had not the new Notes been prepared ready to be exchanged for the others; besides, tho' I have, ever since the Assembly, been desirous of borrowing any Sum in Specie, that could be had for the Purpose, I have not been able to procure more than £.4,100. Knowing the great Scarcity of Gold and Silver in the Country, I offer'd, from the first, to take in the Notes of 1769 and 1771, and to pay Interest for them; but in this I could not succeed. Some Persons might have been disappointed that there was not offer'd a higher Premium for Money, than five per Cent. Interest; but the Assembly could see no good Reason for this; indeed it seem'd a probable Means of relieving one Part of the Community at the Expence of another. Some Creditors, it was feared, would have been too apt to distress their Debtors for the Sake of an advanced Interest. From this Relation of Facts, the Truth of which may be proved by undoubted Testimony and the most authentic Documents, I submit it to your Candour to determine, how far the Author of the Extract can be justified in his groundless and illnatured Aspersions. The best and wisest of Men may differ in their Opinions, as to the Propriety of Measures, especially in Cases of Intricacy and Importance; it is possible that the more judicious, and such, as are better acquainted with Things of this Sort, may discover some Errors in our Proceedings which have escaped us; but for the Purity and Uprightness of the Intentions of our Assembly, from first to last, in all these Money Transactions, so far, as they have fallen under my Observation, and for the Justice of every Thing done at our Treasury, since I have been honoured with the Management of it, I will venture to pawn my Credit with you and the whole World.

It only remains for me to beg your friendly Indulgence for the Trouble I have given you by so long a Letter, and to assure you that I am, with the highest Sentiments of Esteem, very respectfully, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

RO. C. NICHOLAS.

B O S T O N, June 28.

Last Wednesday the House of Commons of this province, passed an humble petition and remonstrance to the King, praying that his Majesty would be pleased to remove from their posts in this government, his Excellency Thomas Hutchinson, Esquire, Governor, and the Honourable Andrew Oliver, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor. Eighty members for, and eleven against, the petition.

The letters of Governor Hutchinson, and Lieutenant Governor Oliver, are printed in a pamphlet, and it is expected that the messages, answers, reports, and resolves, by the Boston Assembly, will be printed together in a volume.

N E W Y O R K, July 5.

About twelve years ago Thomas England, of Philadelphia, tallowchandler, was suddenly missing, but afterwards found floating in the river, and from many circumstances, it was generally thought that he had made away with himself; but a few days ago a letter was received by the Governor of Philadelphia from Virginia, informing him that a person had delivered himself up, and says that he having some words with the said England on one of the wharfs struck him with a stick, which killed him, and then to hide the murder, he threw his body into the river, and that he has been wandering ever since a vagabond, continually tormented by his guilty conscience.

July 8. Last Monday morning, a little before sun rise, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at New Town in Jamaica, and Forster's meadows, on Long Island.

The two whaling vessels lately arrived, it is said, have made very profitable voyages, and may encourage others to go upon the same business.

P E R T H A M B O Y, June 27.

Two men, who came from New England about a year ago, and passed by the names of Stephen Waterman and John Swan, hired a house, and pretended to set up the silversmith's trade. Some time before another, by the name of Noah Colten, set up the same trade at Middletown Point. Their conduct was soon suspicious; and on Saturday last four men were apprehended in Woodbridge; Swan at work in his shop, with a man of some property, near 80 years of age, named Brown. Several instruments for making dollars were found hid in the house, a slating press in the shop, and other tools hid in a post hole, the brook, and other places. As Waterman was from home, and with a suspicious man, the officers proceeded to the house of one Hutchins, near Bound Brook, who had been also suspected. In their way they met Waterman at a tavern; he attempted to get off, and was seen to throw away something, which one of his pursuers took up, and found to be five pieces milled, intended for half joes. He was soon taken. The officers proceeded to Hutchins's, from whence two men escaped, supposed to be Colten and one Boyd, a New Englandman. The persons apprehended were examined on Sunday. At first they prevaricated, and at last refused to answer; but being separately examined, and suspecting the proof much against them, one of them made a full confession, by which several persons in different parts appear to be concerned with them. The dollars made are of 1758, 1762, *and* 1766, *and have been formerly described in the newspapers; the joes, not being complete, no other description can be given of them than that they are all of* 1743 *and* 1761.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, July 10.

Extract of a letter from Annapolis, July 2.

"Our Assembly are passing an act for selling forty thousand pounds sterling bank stock, and to lend it to the people in Maryland to keep up their credit, which will be of great service at this time, as there are such numbers of failures in England."

Since our last arrived here the ship Jenny, Captain M'Ilvaine, with 170 passengers from Londonderry, and the snow Charlotte, Captain Curtis, from Waterford, with 80 passengers.

Monday last arrived here Captain Hunter, in 33 days from the bay of Honduras, by whom we learn that the sloop Industry, Captain Glyn, from the bay for New York, was, in the night of the 10th of May, drove by the current on the Northern Triangles, where the vessel and cargo are lost, and one Mrs. Emory drowned. The crew, with John Peck, ship carpenter, Peter Wright, his wife and child, passengers, took to the boat, on board of which they remained 5 days before they got to St. George's Key, without any provision, except one fowl amongst the whole, the blood of which was given to the child, which preserved its life.

We hear that the loss of the Spanish register ship, on the Northern Triangles, as mentioned in our paper of the 16th ult. has enriched most of the settlers at the bay by the great quantity of money spent among them by the Spaniards, and the indico which they have got up from the wreck, so that most of them think of removing to other parts of the continent, and many who left their former places of abode in debt, talk of paying all off.

W I L L I A M S B U R G, July 29.

Arrived in James river the Friendship, Nesbit, from London, and the Venus, Oliffe, from Dublin; the latter with 70 indented servants, which, Captain Oliffe assures us, makes up the amazing number of 18,000 servants that have arrived on this continent, from Ireland, within the space of one year. Captain Nesbit spoke the Mary and Elizabeth, Mason, from Philadelphia to London, and the Nancy, Nelson, from Virginia for Lisbon, all well.

WOULD BE GLAD OF EMPLOYMENT,

A YOUNG man capable of managing a CLERK'S OFFICE, who will wait upon any person wanting a deputy in that business, on their application by letter to Mr. William Pollard, clerk of Hanover. He can be well recommended.

To be SOLD, on the premises, on Friday the 13th of August,

A TRACT of LAND, lying in Essex county, containing about 500 acres, whereon Mr. John Merritt now lives. This land was conveyed by Thomas Gresham and the said Merritt to the subscriber (of which the public has heretofore been advertised in the Virginia Gazette) and has lately been recovered in the court of the aforesaid county. Six months credit will be allowed, on giving bond and good security to the subscriber, who undertakes to put the purchaser in possession.

ARCHIBALD RITCHIE.

TAPPAHANNOCK, July 15, 1773.

I INTEND immediately for GLASGOW.

SARAH CRISP.